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EDITORIAL

Do you believe in ufos? This is a commonly asked question, and is inevitably raised at ufological gatherings and lectures. At Data Research, however, this question is no longer asked for the sheer volume of reports received from all parts of the world for several years now more than answers the question for

us. Even if nine-tenths of all known reports should turn out to be hoaxes, downright lies, misidentifications, hallucinations, spots before the eyes, spots behind the eyes, just spots, temperature inversions, the outcome of senile decay, pyramidal thought, Sundogs, plasmas, ball-lightning, psychological maladjustment, and what-have-you, the fact that so many people bother to report unusual events, quite irrespective of their political beliefs, age, sex, colour, creed, religious proclivities, or academic attainments, is in itself a phenomena, and must indicate that (a) a vast number of deluded individuals populate this world unable to distinguish fact from fancy, and (b) a very real phenomenon is, due to the highly repetitive character of so many ufo reports, occurring on a global scale and has been for many decades. The truth is that very likely there are hordes of folk in existence unable to separate reality from fancy, and that, contemporary with these, another group not infrequently observes incidents that we have come to accept as the ufo phenomenon. It is these latter observations which are important, although our ability to segregate the fictitious from the genuine ufo observations is as yet still uneven. Their importance lies, moreover, not only in their scientific significance but also in relation to the future and destiny of Mankind as a whole. So-called ufo reports in category (a) are, sooner or later, disclosed for what they are; those in category (b) resist rational explanation and form the truecore of the ufo problem. The large number of cases now comprising category (b) illustrates that the problem, and therefore ufos themselves, is a reality.

It is thus distressing almost to find serious, or purportedly serious, ufo gatherings debating still whether or not ufos really exist. Sufficient evidence now exists to demonstrate that they do. The crux of the matter, of course, is not whether insistence on the existence of ufos derives from a psychological "need" by ufologists but whether the independently accumulating data of category (b) can ever be interpreted in a manner which excludes ufos. In other words, something is occurring. Precisely what it is has yet to be determined. At present it seems to involve something alien.

The ramifications of the ufo problem now seemingly stretch in so many different directions, including such phenomena as electro-magnetic effects, sky booms and sky falls, teleportations, disappearances, animal reactions, unidentified ape-like creatures (e.g., "Bigfoot"), animal mutilations, submarine objects of unknown origin, etc., etc., that the real parameters of ufology are far from being established. Indeed, common-or-garden ufo fly-overs or even ufo landings with alleged occupants, may in fact be little more than the tip of an iceberg. Yet even this "tip" reveals strangely repetitive and consistent elements within it, and the gradual realization that these form an homogeneous or uniform framework renders the ufo phenomenon as a whole not only fascinatingly awesome but also susceptible to proper (though laborious) scientific analysis.

Ufologists, however, must not fall into the error of studying only those parts of the problem that they personally accept as valid, for by doing so they run the very real risk of missing the "wood for the trees". Available information indicates that the ufo problem is immense and that the apparent intelligence underlying it frequently seems to operate in a fashion quite illogical to human understanding. Let us, therefore, study all parts of the watch, not just the motion of the hands, the shapes of the cog-wheels, or the degree of tension in the springs and coils, otherwise we could overlook the very existence of the watch itself. Misinterpretation is as dangerous as misinformation.

REPORT FROM THE UFO INVESTIGATORS NETWORK

(No: ONE - JUNE 1977)

by

Jenny Randles

In March 1977, at a meeting in Birmingham, a new alliance of ufologists in the UK was forged, specifically between field investigators. This alliance is known as the UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN), and, as described below, is somewhat unusual in concept.

Briefly, UFOIN operates as follows. It consists only of investigators who have had practical field experience and have demonstrated an ability to produce an objective and intensive case report --- looking at all aspects of a report (including the background of the witness or witnesses as well as the alleged physical objectivity of the associated event or events). Initially, investigators have been invited to participate, leading field investigators attached to almost all the leading UK ufo study-groups receiving such invitations. Provided that they can show their ability as investigators, however, newcomers to the ufo field will also be able to become members of UFOIN, and certainly UFOIN views the future as a time when controlled expansion will be very much to the fore.

UFOIN is not an official type of organization, being in fact a rather loose-knit link-up. It's members presently consist of investigators for BUFORA, CONTACT (UK) and NUFON, and various local groups, as well as certain independently operating individuals. There is no organizational structure behind UFOIN, except the very simplest of common-sense procedures. Participating individuals continue to work for their respective parent organizations to whom they continue sending copies of their field reports.

The chief objective of the system, and the reason why its inception was necessary, concerns the desirability of improving investigative standards (subscribed to universally) on "high strangeness" (1) cases by allowing concentration on these. Investigators may be involved in all kinds of work for particular organizations, but every now and again they will encounter cases having a "high strangeness" rating. Such cases, for example, may involve landings or even sightings of entities. In such instances, investigators act in their capacity as UFOIN agents and drop all other work (except for that concerned with investigating previous "high strangeness" cases). UFOIN concentrates exclusively on such cases and allows for their intensive investigation. This system permits the early entry of a well qualified UFOIN investigator into a case of "high strangeness" to assist and advise less experienced local investigators confronted with such an event (thereby acting as a kind of consultant and guide). The results of field investigations into such cases should thus be measurably superior to nearly all results in the past, although this achievement is not possible without the pooling of experienced people into one team or without financial support.

UFOIN is financially supported to some degree by Flying Saucer Review, whose journal of the same name (2) enjoys an international reputation. The results of all UFOIN field investigations are to be published in this journal, space permitting, while copies of each case report will be disseminated among all participating UFOIN investigators, and their parent organizations. In many instances, accounts of various cases will also probably be carried in other leading UK ufo publications from time to time.

As a step towards close relations with, in this instance, CONTACT (UK), there now follows the first of what hopefully will be a regular summary of UFOIN investigated cases. Readers are referred in all instances to FSR for fuller case details.

Case 1:April 2nd., 1976: BURY, Greater Manchester.

A detective superintendent from the Greater Manchester CID had an encounter with a white disc shaped object on returning home at 01.55 hours on this date. The object flew ahead of his car, retraced its steps, and then proceeded to hover overhead. The witness stopped his car, and got out to watch the object manoeuvre silently overhead. It then suddenly flew off for a short distance, before hovering once more. It finally streaked away towards the horizon in a matter of seconds (see refs. 3 and 4). Investigated by Peter Warrington.

Case 2:August 1976: Mountains near Gwynedd, North Wales.

A holidaying couple took a series of photographs of mountain scenery. On these being developed, one of the photographs showed a white cigar-shaped object that seemed to be positioned over one of the mountains. This object was not seen by either witness at the time the relevant photograph was actually snapped. Later, detailed analysis revealed that the cigar-shaped effect was almost certainly caused by a deposit on the emulsion of the film.

This case is included here to show that in-depth studies are accorded reports that, on the surface at least, appear to be valid ufo sightings, but which, upon stringent investigation (in this instance photographic analysis), can sometimes be proved to be no more than pseudo-ufos.

Case 3:January 27th., 1977: Bridlington, North Humberside.

Three women cleaners at a factory on an industrial estate here, were just reporting for duty at 16.45 hours, when they saw two objects in the sky over the factory. One object was a domed oval affair which swooped down low and took samples from the ground nearby by means of a pipe (suction?). It then hovered over an adjacent woodyard and then flew off. One of the women was wearing a watch which she claims was stopped by the ufo, and all three women claim that a machine in the factory itself stopped while the ufo was in the vicinity. It is also alleged that the women felt ill effects the next day, although whether these were truly physical (biological) or psychological has yet to be determined. Investigations into this event are still proceeding, the investigators being John Cree, Sidney Henley, and John Molloy.

Case 4:February 9th., 1977: Walthamstow, Essex.

A large oval shaped object was seen passing over an estate at 18.40 hours on this date. There were multiple independent witnesses to the manifestation and it was alleged (though subsequent investigation failed to confirm the connection) that there were simultaneous electromagnetic type interference effects on television screens in the area. Investigated by Andy Collins.

Case 5:March 9th., 1977: Nelson, Lancashire.

At 03.10 hours, two witnesses from a night shift were returning to work, having dropped off some colleagues from their car. They saw a large oval shape emerge from clouds and fly towards them. It hovered over their car, causing the lights to dim and the engine to cut out. The men got out of the car and for several minutes watched the object hover overhead. It created a strange force-field around them, which led to physical effects afterwards. Interestingly, the car only restarted when the object flew away. Investigated by Tony Grimshaw/Jenny Randles.

Case 6:

May 3rd., 1977: Hainault, Essex.

Two policemen, responding to a 999 call, saw a red cone shaped object in a park, from which it suddenly took off. Subsequent investigation of the site revealed a tree that had been stripped and flattened only just before. This event occurred at 03.55 hours. Analysis is proceeding of samples of the tree and surrounding soil: see ref.3. Investigated by Andy Collins and Barry King.

* * * * *

The number of cases investigated in so short a time symbolizes the nationwide ufo "flap" we have been experiencing these past few months. Several further reports are in the early stages of being investigated, including a photographic case in Eire, a landing with an occupant in Surrey, and another landing with ground traces and photographs (by independent witnesses) in Buckinghamshire. I hope to review these in a future summary.

R e f e r e n c e s .

1. For "strangeness" factors in ufo reports see "The UFO Experience" by J.A.Hynek.
2. "Flying Saucer Review", FSR Publications, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.
3. To be featured in depth in "Flying Saucer Review", vol.23, no:2.
4. Compare this incident with a similar case of a few months earlier in the same area, also involving policemen, as described in "Ufo Activity over Northern England: July-October 1975", Awareness, Spring 1976.

"THE CAMOUFLAGE SYNDROME"

by

J.B.Delair.

Although a few writers, such as Jessup (1) and the Lorenzens (2), have briefly discussed those clouds which, though externally resembling natural clouds, behave quite unlike ordinary clouds, and others --- notably Vallee (3) --- have reviewed those cases involving cigar-shaped clouds associated with or created by cigar-shaped ufos, almost all other ufologists have paid scant attention to them. Nonetheless, if we are ever to perceive the true magnitude of the ufo phenomenon or the degree to which it sometimes manifests itself in almost undetectable guises, these aberrant "clouds" cannot be ignored and actually reveal the extent of the ufo problem in several specific but as yet little-studied areas. This article concentrates on selected reports featuring aberrant "clouds" and their various demonstrable connections with the ufo phenomenon.

The following twenty six cases, arranged chronologically, are typical of the many known events in this category.

1. In 1794, a strangely luminous cloud passed over Siena, in Italy, and jettisoned a number of stones. All the stones were seen to fall from this one cloud (4).
2. During the afternoon of April 26th., 1812, a rapidly moving fiery globe of high brilliancy, passed over the neighbourhood of L'Aigle, in Normandy, France, and was followed in a few seconds by a violent explosion that lasted five or six minutes, and which was heard for 30 leagues in all directions. Three or four loud reports like those of canons were heard and were then succeeded by noises resembling musketry fire (i.e., a crackling sound), after which a dreadful rumbling occurred like the beating of a drum. These noises emanated from a small

rectangular cloud, of which the longest side lay along an east-to-west alignment. The cloud remained motionless throughout the period of these detonations and noises, and was at so great an altitude that the inhabitants of two villages a league apart saw it direct overhead. At the time, the air was calm and serene except for a few scattered clouds. A multitude of stones then fell with a hissing sound, from the rectangular cloud, at the time of the explosions, some of them being later collected and identified as "aerolites" or "meteorites" (5).

3. At 11.00 am. on September 5th., 1814, when a stiff breeze was blowing despite a clear sky, there suddenly appeared at a great height to the NW. of Agen, France, a slow moving sombre white cloud having a greyish centre and apparently only a few feet in diameter. It was perfectly round in shape. After a short while it became completely stationary (despite the stiff breeze) and remained so until a few minutes before mid-day (i.e., for almost an hour), when it suddenly sped off to the south, revolving on its own axis as it did so, and began emitting rumbling sounds and thunderous noises culminating in an explosion. At the moment of detonation, the cloud discharged a shower of stones --- some of considerable size --- from two elongated chord-like features that formed simultaneously. After this, the cloud stopped again, and slowly faded away.

The explosion was heard loudly at Montpezat, Temple, Castel-moron, and Montclar, and more distantly at Mezin, Basas, Condon, and St. Macaire. The event understandably terrified many of the local populace (6; 7; and 8).

4. Interestingly, little more than a year elapsed before a markedly similar event occurred, this time at 8.30 am. on October 3rd., 1815, at Chassigny, SE. of Langres, France. There, in the NE. quadrant of the sky, musketry-like sounds proceeded from a strange grey cloud that had appeared in an otherwise clear and serene sky. Shortly afterwards, a stone, later identified as a meteorite, fell to Earth from this cloud. An account of this event was communicated by a M. Pistollet to M. Virey, who published it the following year (9; 10).

This singular event bears comparison with some previous falls of stones from unusual clouds, as discussed by Marcel de Serres in 1814 (11), and also with the next event.

5. On August 7th., 1823, at approximately 5.00 pm., a stone fell at Noblesville, Indiana, U.S.A., from a small whitish cloud, apparently some 40 feet square. This had also appeared near the zenith in a perfectly serene and calm sky. Again, a crackling noise like that of musketry came from the cloud, which also performed a curious spiralling motion downwards just before the stone was discharged from it (12).

6. On October 3rd., 1843, three strange entities were seen in the sky below a very unusual cloud over Warwick, Warwickshire (13). Cloud and entities eventually vanished, so just conceivably this may have been some kind of mirage.

7. At 4.55 am. on December 17th., 1852, a triangular cloud with a long tail and a dull red nucleus, in size about half the Moon's apparent diameter, appeared during a storm near Dover, Kent. It remained visible for 13 minutes, during which time it increased in size, until an explosion occurred within it causing its dissipation (14).

8. In 1881, the Astronomer Royal of Scotland vacationed at Funchal, in the Madeiras. One afternoon he saw a strange isolated cloud forming at a great altitude over the bay by which Funchal stands. This cloud remained awesomely motionless in the same place for hours. Under it another similar but larger cloud materialized, then a third, a fourth, and a fifth --- all stationary and on the same vertical axis. All the clouds maintained their position until sunset when, with the onset

of darkness, they disappeared in the reverse order of their formation. The highest cloud remained visible in striking colours until well after sunset, until 10.00 pm. in fact, eloquent testimony to its immense altitude. This singular cloud formation was also observed from ships almost 150 miles distant from Funchal, again confirming the vast height and size of the clouds (15).

9. At 6.05 pm. on Friday, November 17th, 1882, many persons watched a well-defined, brilliantly white spindle-shaped cloudy body move across the sky from E. to SSW. in less than one minute. One observer, Thomas B. Elger, estimated the passage as being only 6 seconds in duration. The same object was also seen by Stephen H. Saxby at Clevedon, and was described by another, John L. Dobson, as resembling a cloudy fish-torpedo having a mottled appearance. Elger, on the other hand, reported it as having a lenticular shape and a greenish-white hue (16).

10. Virtually eleven months later, on October 16th., 1883 to be exact, a thick cloud accompanied by rain and a violent wind appeared over Montussan, Gironde, in France, and was seemingly composed of a white woolly substance in lumps. Each lump was about the size of a man's fist. Many of these fell to Earth, were collected, and subsequently examined. The substance was found to be fibrous and had every appearance of having been burnt. It could not, however, be identified (17).

11. On August 9th., 1892, a very peculiar fast-moving yellow cloud appeared over Paderborn, in Germany, and discharged not only torrential rain but hundreds of living pond mussels of the species Anodonta anatina as well (18).

12. Moving forward two decades we come to one of the most incredible events in the entire saga of aberrant "clouds". On the morning of August 21st., 1915, the following very remarkable incident took place at Hill 60, Suvla Bay, near Gallipoli in Turkey. The First World War was on at the time and it occurred at the period of some of the heaviest fighting between the opposing Turkish and Allied forces deployed around that locality; it was witnessed by several soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, three of whom, in a signed statement issued on the 50th anniversary of the ANZAC landing, affirmed that:-

"The day broke clear without a cloud in sight, as any beautiful Mediterranean day could be expected to be. The exception, however, was a number of perhaps six or eight 'loaf-of-bread' shaped clouds -- all shaped exactly alike -- which were hovering over Hill 60. It was noticed that, in spite of a four or five mile an hour breeze, they were motionless and did not change shape or form, nor did they drift away under the influence of the breeze. They were hovering at an elevation of about 60 degrees as seen from our observation point 500 feet up. Also stationary and resting on the ground right underneath this group of clouds was a similar cloud in shape, measuring about 800 feet in length, 200 in height, and 200 in width. This cloud was absolutely dense, almost solid looking in structure, and positioned about 14 to 18 chains from the fighting in British held territory.

All this was observed by twenty-two men of No:3 Section of No:1 Field Company, N.Z.E., including myself, from our trenches on Rhododendron Spur, approximately 2500 yards south west of the cloud on the ground. Our vantage point was overlooking Hill 60 by about 300 feet. As it turned out later, this singular cloud was straddling a dry creek bed or sunken road (Kiajick Dere) and we had a perfect view of the cloud's sides and ends as it rested on the ground. Its colour was light grey, as was the colour of the other clouds.

A British regiment, the First Fourth Norfolk, of several hundred men, was then noticed marching up this sunken road or creek towards Hill 60. However, when

they arrived at this cloud, they marched straight into it, with no hesitation, but no one ever came out to deploy and fight at Hill 60. About an hour later, after the last of the file had disappeared into it, this cloud very unobtrusively lifted off the ground and, like any cloud or fog would, rose slowly until it joined the other similar clouds which were mentioned at the beginning of this account. On viewing them again, they all looked alike "as peas in a pod". All this time, the group of clouds had been hovering in the same place, but as soon as the singular 'ground' cloud had risen to their level, they all moved away northwards, i.e., towards Thrace (Bulgaria). In a matter of about three quarters of an hour they had all disappeared from view.

The Regiment mentioned is posted as "missing" or "wiped out" and on Turkey surrendering in 1918, the first thing the British demanded of Turkey was the return of this regiment. Turkey replied that she had neither captured this Regiment, nor made contact with it, and did not know that it existed. A British regiment in 1914-18 consisted of any number between 800 and 4000 men. Those who observed this incident vouch for the fact that Turkey never captured that Regiment, nor made contact with it.

We, the undersigned, although late in time, that is at the 50th Jubilee of the ANZAC landing, declare that the above described incident is true in every word.

Signed by witnesses: 4/165 Sapper F.Reichart.
Matata, Bay of Plenty.

13/416 Sapper R.Newnes.
157 King Street, Cambridge.

J.L.Newman.
73 Freyberg Street,
Otumotai, Tauranga. " (19).

13. Closer to our own era we find equally puzzling reports about unusual cloudy bodies, as, for example, that seen on August 7th., 1961, when a cigar-shaped cloud was seen to release 20 or more small objects as it passed over Heaton Moor, Stockport, Greater Manchester (20).

14. At 5.30 pm. on October 14th., 1961, Mr and Mrs Burson, of Sunset, Utah, U.S.A., watched, with two other residents, two weird objects they described as "puffy daubs of cotton" pass over that locality in an easterly direction. These bodies were joined together by "long stringy stuff", and were followed at a short interval by a pair of smooth disc-shaped objects.

The following day, two more "puffy" objects passed over the same locality at high speed in the same direction (21).

15. Mr F.Burrows of Manchester, together with another witness, saw an unusual cloud formation one night in November 1961, positioned to the left of the Moon as seen from his vantage point. A sword-like object was visible in the middle of this cloud, and a moving silvery object resembling a submarine --- about three inches long at arm's length --- emerged from the "sword's" hilt. After approximately 35 minutes, this object and the cloud formation disappeared into the darkness. Later on, a similar though otherwise smaller submarine-shaped object was seen travelling across the sky on another course (22).

16. On or about November 10th., 1961, a strange dark-grey cloud passed over Vukovar, in Coatia, Yugoslavia, and caused not only the local radio-station to black-out but some sodium lamps stored on a shelf in a building to mysteriously start glowing (23).

17. Shortly before May, 1965, a lady holidaying at a cliff-top house near Sydney, New South Wales, watched a beautiful stationary pink-coloured cloud from 5.30 to 6.00 pm. one evening. At 7.00 pm., when she looked again, the witness was astounded to see the cloud begin to move from its stationary position towards some rocks at the base of the cliff. As the cloud came nearer and descended below the eye-level of the percipient, she was able to look down into it and was amazed to see that it contained a round snow-white object having a base tapering to a point some 3 feet wide. The object emitted grey-coloured steam from vents around its outer edge, and this, thoroughly enveloping all but the uppermost portion of the object, soon turned pink and was in fact the substance of the "cloud". A noise like that of a high-powered, well-cared-for engine was heard and, as the object descended still further, a shining ladder was lowered from a hatchway on its underside. A manlike occupant then climbed down the ladder and sat on one of its rungs, from which position he shone a strong beam of light into the sea below -- as if looking for something. Shortly after this, a brilliant pink flare went up farther out to sea, and almost immediately the ladder, with the occupant still on it, was retracted into the object, which then sped off in the direction of the flare. The witness also discerned a long shape in the water approximately where the flare had been released. When the ufo reached this object, both it and the elongated shape disappeared in a "vivid pink flash" beneath the sea (24).
18. One evening in April 1966, Miss Susan Everett saw several white "fluffy balls" pass across the sky near Battlesbury, Wiltshire, at no great height above the ground. They have never been satisfactorily explained, but bear comparison with the essentially similar objects observed five years earlier over Sunset, Utah (see case 14). (25)
19. Strangely manoeuvring pink clouds suggest a discernible pattern within these many extraordinary events, for another was seen about 11.00 pm. on September 12th., 1967, over Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. As with the aforementioned "clouds", this, too, was never adequately identified and remains a mystery (26).
20. Numerous people reported watching a markedly circular cloud exhibiting very odd flight behaviour from many places in the Republic of South Africa -- including Vryburg, Bloemfontein, Heilbron, Stilfontein, near Jagersfontein, Thabazimbi, Bethlehem, Brandfort, and Abrahamskraal -- on July 6th., 1968. That this cloud was visible from so many widely sundered localities (Vryburg, Bethlehem, Jagersfontein, and Stilfontein are all over 100 miles apart) means that it was of gigantic size and that its manoeuvres were correspondingly enormous and at a great altitude (27).
21. On February 3rd., 1969, unusual noises emanated from two odd-looking clouds over Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.A. Among the hundreds of persons who reported the clouds to chief-of-police James Alford, one described the sounds as like someone rattling a huge sheet of sellophane, while another compared them to a "giant walking on pebbles". Police-captain Harold Ryan was instructed to follow the first cloud, but, although he did so for a short while, the cloud abruptly vanished. Shortly afterwards a second crackling cloud appeared, but, when chased by Captain Ryan in his car, it too suddenly disappeared. The noises proceeding from these "clouds" compare favourably with those described in cases 2 and 5 (28).
22. A distinctly strange formation of eight orange clouds was watched at 5.25 am. on August 15th., 1969, by military personnel at Kolka, some 60 miles S. of Myllykoski, in Finland. The clouds maintained regimental precision as they moved steadily across the sky, and were still proceeding in unison as they disappeared over the horizon (29).

23.Finland again hosted the next case, which occurred on January 7th., 1970, when, at 3.45 pm. that day, ski-enthusiasts Aarno Heinonen and Esko Viljo saw, near Imjarvi, a very bright luminous grey-red cloud in an otherwise cloudless sky. There was also no wind. Soundlessly, the cloud changed course towards the two startled men, and began to lose altitude. After a short while, a humming noise was heard, the cloud began to pulsate, and it descended to about 50 feet above ground-level. At that juncture, a shiny grey metallic-looking round object with a flat base could be seen inside the cloud, which continued to descend until it stopped about 10 feet above the ground. The object then tilted towards the witnesses, and disgorged a very slender man-like entity approximately 3 feet tall. This being pointed a black box at the two men. Luminous sparks or short rods of light floated outwards from it. These were coloured red, violet, and green, but although some of them struck Heinonen they did him no harm. Finally, the object and the entity became enveloped in thick mist or fog that, upon subsequent dissipation, revealed absolutely no trace of the object or the strange occupant. Understandably, both witnesses were greatly shocked by their experience, and later required medical treatment (30).

24.Mr and Mrs W.Hamilton's farmhouse at McLain, Mississippi, U.S.A., was severely damaged by a ball of "smoke" that suddenly appeared out of a cloudless sky at 2.30 pm. on April 12th., 1971. It was accompanied by a strange noise and caused pots and pans in a kitchen to rattle, three two-by-four planks of wood to fall out of a wall, the total demolition of another wall, and the porch rook to be blown some 500 feet distant. A small outside wash-house was also torn up, and part of an adjacent barn was destroyed. The "smoke" was also seen by nearby mill workers, one of whom reported that a closely similar incident had occurred at her home the week previously. Investigators declared that sonic booms and tornadoes were not responsible for the havoc since they did not fit the facts (31).

25.1971 seems to have been a good year for "flying smoke", for during the afternoon of October 13th., two educational officers watched an amazing aerial phenomenon over Bosanka Posavina, in Bosnia, Yugoslavia. It resembled dense smoke --- apparently one kilometre long and one metre wide --- that passed with a wave-like or undulatory motion across the sky. This phenomenon was also seen by several other local inhabitants, and seems to have been virtually identical to the "flying smoke" seen by farmers, at Kladar, also in Bosnia, the same day, and where it was visible for 15 minutes before passing northwards out of sight. While over this area it was noticed that sheep, cattle, hens, and other animals, were much disturbed by it, one farmer stating that the animals were "scared to death". Of special interest is the fact that this "flying smoke" did not dissipate while in motion (32).

26.Finally, as an illustration of the fact that aberrant clouds exhibiting unnaturally controlled movements are still being observed at the time of writing, we conclude with a letter from G.Sloane of Bideford, Devonshire, that was published by the Daily Mirror in February 1977 in response to that newspaper's centre-spread on ufos of a few days previously. The letter reads:

"I was watching a football match on a bright Sunday morning. A few woolly clouds were scattered in the sky. My attention was caught by a procession of clouds in line coming swiftly over the horizon. They were white, roughly cube shaped (my italics) and travelling against the wind. In about a minute they crossed the sky and disappeared over the horizon. The speed was incredible" (33).

The velocity of these "clouds" should be compared with those reported in cases 9 and 22.

These cases, so typical of dozens more, show that cloudy bodies generally resembling, but acting very differently from, normal clouds -- or of oddly symmetrical configurations but behaving like ordinary clouds -- have not only been observed for many years but occur on a global basis and are often indisputably associated with ufos proper (e.g., cases 15, 16, and 23). Moreover, those cases featuring definite ufos often also include descriptions of so-called "carrier" craft (cases 13 and 14), are strongly reminiscent of, if not actually the same as, the "cloud-cigars" discussed by Vallee (34), and even link up with those observations of unknown submersible objects discussed by Sanderson (35). A direct connection between these aberrant clouds and alien entities also seems to be beyond dispute (cases 17 and 23), as do connections between these clouds and electro-magnetic effects and unusual animal reactions (cases 16 and 25). An intriguing additional example of associating clouds and entities occurred at 9.15 p.m. on October 18th., 1973, when W.Hines and a companion watched a hazy green cloud rise up from behind trees just after they had ineffectually chased a shimmering 3 to 4 foot tall humanoid entity that moved sideways at White Oak Mountain, near Danville, Virginia, U.S.A. (36).

The unnatural symmetrical appearance of several of these clouds (cases 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 20, 2nd 26) strongly suggest artificial origins, which, by inference, in turn suggests artificial creation and intelligent control. This suspicion is supported by those accounts describing speeds, regimented arrangements, and/or manoeuvres impossible for conventional clouds (cases 5, 8, 9, 12, 20, and 22), or, conversely, complete immobility during persistently windy or breezy conditions (cases 3, 7, 8, and 12).

The expectoration by some of these clouds of hard objects like stones and mussels, especially by those clouds that had previously been stationary for appreciable periods (cases 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 11) -- in one instance for almost an hour, suggests that the stones (commonly identified as meteorites) were either not conventional meteorites at all or, if they, they had, like the mussels, been suspended aloft by forces capable of nullifying gravity. Certainly the mussels, before their fall, should not have been aloft in the first place. But mussels held aloft by intelligent agencies may well have been collected initially by agencies able to negate gravitational effects, such an explanation also accounting for the live condition of the mussels when picked up shortly after their fall by astonished observers.

Surely, the collective testimony of substantial objects apparently suspended aloft in defiance of physics, of the aberrant clouds associated with them, and of the singular behaviour of all these things, indicates decidedly unnatural origins. Reviewed in combination, all factors like those just discussed lead to the conclusion that these cloudy bodies -- far from being unusual specimens of otherwise natural clouds -- are not clouds at all, but ufos that either deliberately disguise themselves as clouds (as suggested in cases 12, and 17), or that, due to particular operational methods, generate enveloping vapours and cloud effects. "Cloud-ufos", as they may henceforth be conveniently termed, possibly occur much more often than is generally realized, but pass unnoticed for what they actually are in Earth's frequently cloudy skies. This is indeed a sobering thought.

It might, of course, be objected that even rather symmetrical looking clouds are the natural result of natural winds blowing in particular directions at the same time as columns of air are rising locally at constant rates. This is superficially attractive as an explanation, but a moment's reflection upon the meteorological conditions necessary to produce triangular and cube-like "clouds" shows the explanation to be completely untenable.

Surprisingly, the possibility that some ufos deliberately camouflage themselves as clouds, or hide within natural clouds, is rather strong, for, in addition to the disconcerting Turkish episode already noted (case 12), numerous other incidents are known in which ufos have been seen to enter clouds or cloudy bodies from which they have not emerged. Even terrestrial devices (some with human occupants) have similarly vanished. In some instances, these clouds were quite small and isolated, and sometimes vanished abruptly. A review of such cases makes interesting reading. Below is a chronologically arranged selection of reports representative of such events and of others in which ufos emerged from aberrant clouds, or in which they came out of and then re-entered the same cloud.

- A. Ten or twelve discoidal objects came out of a revolving golden-coloured cloud seen during November 1947 from Albany Avenue, Ontario (actually in Toronto city), Canada (37).
- B. Whilst on a meteorological reconnaissance mission over Korea, during March 1952, wing-commander J. Baldwin, with the jet aeroplane he was flying, disappeared into a cloud from which he did not emerge. Neither he nor his aeroplane was seen again (38).
- C. At approximately 5.50 p.m., on March 9th., 1955, a silver bell-shaped object was seen by observers at Paris, Illinois, U.S.A., to "swallow" an aeroplane (39).

The two cases immediately above should be compared with the event which occurred on November 23rd., 1953, when an F-89 jet from Kinross U.S. Air Force base, Michigan, was dispatched to intercept a ufo. The jet was crewed by Lt. Felix Moncla Jr., and Lt. R.R. Wilson, who closed the distance between them and the ufo at a speed in excess of 500 miles per hour. Ground radar, monitoring the event, observed that the jet's blip on the radar screen suddenly merged with the much larger ufo blip, which then moved off at high velocity. Jet and air-crew were never seen again (40).

- D. During daylight hours on February 22nd., 1959, two witnesses saw three white disc-like objects pass into a cloud over Warsop, Nottinghamshire, from which they never reappeared (41).
- E. When east of Somerton, South Australia, at 6.15 p.m., on November 21st., 1961, Mr G. Page watched 6 to 8 crescent-shaped objects enter an isolated cloud within which they stubbornly remained (42).
- F. At 8.30 p.m., on July 22nd., 1963, three people watched a low flying bell-shaped object pass into a cloud over Parr, Merseyside. It failed to reappear (43).
- G. At 6.45 p.m., on October 2nd., 1963, a black oval object was seen to come out of and then re-enter a lone cloud over Audenshaw, Greater Manchester (44).
- H. A large discoidal object was seen by observers at St. Helen's, Lancashire, to move slowly into a cloud, from which it failed to emerge, at 2.00 p.m. on an undetermined date in June 1966 (45).
- I. During the evening of July 15th., 1967, an object resembling a domed disc came out of, then re-entered, and then again emerged from an isolated cloud over an area approximately one mile south of Sedalia, Missouri, U.S.A. (46).
- J. On September 6th., 1967 — just six days before a pink cloud was observed there (see case 19) — three people at Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, watched, at approximately 9.50 p.m., an oval object come out of a remarkable sausage-shaped cloud (47).

K. Around 1.00 p.m., on an unnoted date in April 1968, a wingless rocket-like object was seen to enter a cloud over Woodford, Essex, wherein it then apparently remained, for it was not seen again (48).

L. Late in August 1969, two witnesses at Masbro, near Birmingham, saw, at 1.30 p.m., a spherical object enter and remain inside a cloud motionless over that locality. Very interestingly, this cloud was subsequently "inspected" by a jet aeroplane (49). See later comments on pseudo-planes.

M. Late in the afternoon of May 24th., 1971, two MIG jet fighters were sent up by the Hungarian Air Force to investigate an unknown object which was also monitored at the time on radar at Zagreb, in Yugoslavia. The Zagreb radar operators watched all three blips for about ten minutes, after which all three suddenly merged into a single blip, which then disappeared from the radar screen. Enquiries made by Zagreb of the Hungarian flight-controllers revealed that no further information was forthcoming on the episode "because the fighter planes had not returned to base". Upon being pressed further, the previous comment was truncated to "No comment". So far as is known, the Hungarian jets were never seen again, and nor were their crews (50).

This incident, so much like cases B and C above, is also somewhat reminiscent of the loss of instruments from a weather balloon that passed through a cloud, from which later emerged a silvery domed object that altered course as it moved, as watched by meteorological station personnel at Trindade Island, off Brazil, only a few weeks before the celebrated Trindade Island ufo photographs were taken (51). The instruments were not seen again.

N. On August 13th., 1972, Senor A. Acosta saw 20 lights emerge from an oval shaped cloud over Yauco, Puerto Rico, and enter a closely similar one nearby, in which they remained (52).

There can be little doubt remaining that ufos frequently and deliberately employ clouds, or create artificial clouds, to camouflage at least some of their activities and thus make them much less easy to detect. These traits ought now to be considered in relation to the following information about objects that, although often described by eyewitnesses as various kinds of terrestrial aircraft, may in fact not always be so. If, as suspected, ufos disguise themselves as clouds on certain occasions, attaining a very creditable degree of mimicry, then the duplication of man-made aircraft follows almost naturally as an extension of this camouflage syndrome and the technology suspected as underlying it.

In case L above, the inspecting jet aeroplane may well have been despatched by local air authorities monitoring the cloud and the sphere involved, particularly the latter's mode of disappearance; yet we should consider the aeroplane alongside the jet aircraft observed on June 19th., 1959, over Clitheroe in Lancashire, which was seen by Rosemary Miller and Norma Stephenson to be hovering over a saucer-shaped object stationary in the sky (53). It hardly needs to be stressed that, in 1959, no jet aeroplanes capable of hovering had been built. Before we dismiss the Clitheroe "jet" as some unidentified type of helicopter, it should be compared with the essentially similar cases below.

At 9.30 p.m., on March 14th., 1975, a "helicopter" appeared near a low-level oval-shaped object over Enfield, Connecticut, U.S.A. (54) and on September 3rd., the same year, two "helicopters" appeared near a mysterious object that changed shape from round to diamond, to chevron, to domed-saucer according to

several witnesses who had it under observation from Tijunga, a spot about 15 miles N.E. of Los Angeles, California (55).

All the foregoing "jet" and "helicopter" incidents should be assessed in relation to the amazing event that occurred in broad daylight on October 1st., 1975, when an amoeba-like cloudy object appeared in the sky over King's Lynn, Norfolk, before turning into something resembling a jet aeroplane. Shortly after this transformation, the "jet" suddenly vanished (56).

The King's Lynn "jet" falls into that category of objects that can best be referred to as "pseudo-planes". These objects -- frequently long-fuselaged, stubby-winged, lacking identification marks, and sometimes unnervingly silent -- have been repeatedly observed down the years, both as isolated objects and in groups. A rather famous case of this type occurred on July 22nd, 1968, when a very low flying and extraordinarily elongated pseudo-plane visited San Carlos de Bariloche airport, near Bahia Blanca, Argentina, where it was observed by mystified airport staff (57). Another interesting case involved objects, described as "jets" by eyewitnesses, seen pursuing a mushroom shaped object over Winchester, Hampshire, on October 27th., 1967 (58). Significantly, enquiries made at the time of local Air Force authorities disclosed that no jets had been scrambled to intercept that particular ufo. Virtually the same denial was made by American police and air traffic personnel respecting a group of nine extremely low flying black-domed objects possessing silvery tails, and superficially resembling helicopters, watched by some girl scouts near East Derry, New Hampshire, U.S.A., at about 6.40 p.m., on August 28th., 1965 (59). These objects were never identified.

If none of these mystery "jets" and "helicopters" were of terrestrial origin, one begins to perceive why the relevant authorities persistently denied owning or despatching them, and why many then contemporary ufologists, upon receiving such denials, concluded that those authorities were being less than honest in their disclaimers. If such objects were alien devices that purposefully mimicked the equivalent terrestrial aircraft, then the authorities were actually being totally honest, and were, no doubt, as baffled by the events as the percipients. The true interpretation of such incidents may involve very different agencies from those that, on the surface, could lie behind the presence and operation of these objects in our skies.

Very probably falling into the same category as the above, are the helicopter like objects -- again often unmarked and silent -- reported in recent years from various localities in the English Midlands and from many American states. In Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states, these mystery craft have been repeatedly sighted in areas and at times close to unexplained animal mutilations. These have caused widespread concern, and have, in some districts, reached epidemic proportions (60). In Montana, where the problem has been especially acute, the numerous cases have been partially published in a fascinating yet disturbing tone by Donovan and Wolverton (61), in which the association with more "conventional" ufo events seems to have been reasonably well established.

Many additional cases could be cited, although the foregoing selection doubtless provides enough food for thought as it is. Nevertheless, as a final demonstration that events involving strange clouds, ufos, and skyfalls of novel substances have occurred globally for decades, we close this chronicle of the improbable and the unlikely with the two following incidents from distant history. The original wording has been preserved.

In 364 A.D., "Very wooll mixed with raigne fell out of the clowds" (62).

The second case is even earlier, and dates from 49 B.C., when:-

"...in the consulship of Lucius Paullus and Gaius Marcellus it rained wool in the vicinity of Compsa Castle near where Titus Annius Milo was killed a year later" (63).

These two events, which instantly recall the more modern incidents previously mentioned (cases 10, 14, and 18), bear comparison with another dating from 371 AD, when:-

"Hayle of a wonderful greatness falling at Constantinople slue manye men and beastes, likewise Wooll mixed with rayne at Atrebat, fell out of the clowdes" (64).

The reference near the foot of the previous page to the improbable and the unlikely may well indicate why such events occur, since, if as suggested, these aberrant clouds and the associated skyfalls, unknown objects (sometimes with humanoid occupants), and the pseudo "jets" and "helicopters" are truly all a part of some vast inter-related whole, then the rather obvious mimicking of terrestrial aircraft and the duplication of natural Earth clouds appears to be part of a pattern of operations that, for at least much of the time, prefers to occur in camouflaged or disguised form. One can speculate endlessly upon the reasons for such a possibility. A truly satisfactory answer, however, eludes one. The erratic intervals separating the recorded occurrences of this kind further serves to divert attention from the many events. Each occurs in isolation, as it were, so far as humanity is concerned; each is highly extraordinary -- even outrageous in its characteristics; and each contains elements that, outwardly, often strongly resemble natural terrestrial atmospheric conditions and known man-made aircraft. The wide intervals separating many of these events affords no clue as to whether or not the events are actually linked. Reviewed collectively, on the other hand, all sorts of interesting and sobering trends begin to emerge. The disappearance of a whole regiment (case 12) and of various aeroplanes and their pilots into clouds (cases B, C, and M), while individually all quite different, collectively present an essentially similar picture. What that picture signifies, of course, is as yet unknown.

This study shows that many of the major facets of the known ufo problem -- magnetic effects, animals reactions, animal mutilations, humanoid beings, unexpected disappearances, etc. -- are directly connected with the activities of aberrant clouds or cloudy objects in Earth's skies. No longer can they be dismissed as some form of freak weather or meteorological condition.

In view of their implications, is it not high time that in-depth studies be conducted on these hitherto little recognized pieces of the ufo jigsaw, on an international basis, and with a view to developing a workable system for detecting and monitoring "Cloud-ufos"?

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"SOME SELECTED UFO REPORTS"

by

D.N.Mansell.

Over the past few months Data Research has been deluged with sighting reports from all parts of the world, and there can be little doubt that, even if only 25% of these prove to be valid, then ufo activity is presently very high. A small selection of some of the more interesting British reports received between April 1st and May 31st this year are presented below in chronological order. However, before detailing these, readers may like to know how Data Research and its new and very much streamlined team of field investigators works. Hopefully, the following lines describe the aims and procedures adopted.

The principal aim of Data Research, of course, is the collection and correlation of data on ufo sightings and associated subjects, such as unusual noises, sonic booms (not attributable to aircraft), vehicular interference and magnetic effects, animal reactions, missing persons, animal mutilations, etc. Reports are gathered from the oldest surviving records, which are inevitably literary records, right down to the present time, and all are chronologically catalogued in Data Research's master World UFO Catalogue (WUFOC), a process that is also being carried out in conjunction with Dr Hynek's Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, U.S.A. WUFOC now has over 50,000 entries.

To assist in this research, Data Research relies on its field investigators so far as British reports are concerned. Until quite recently, Data Research had about 250 field investigators in different parts of Britain, who were appointed merely if they professed a wish to become an investigator. In the vast majority of cases Data Research knew little or nothing about these folk or their ability to conduct proper enquiries in the field. As can be imagined a high percentage of the reports received from these individuals were sub-standard and of little final worth. A point was reached some two years ago when this state of affairs was no longer acceptable, and all investigators then registered as such on Data Research's roll were suspended. Each was then sent a difficult examination to undergo (which had been worked out by John Sears and the present writer over a period of months), in order that the calibre of investigator could be assessed. The examination was comprehensive. Initially, only 20 former investigators successfully passed the examination, and they formed the core of our new and highly efficient field investigative teams. Since then, 10 further individuals have satisfactorily attained the required standard, bringing the total to 30. Henceforth, these 30 individuals will be known as field co-ordinators, and any further field investigators appointed will be assigned to their jurisdiction, according to where the relevant individuals happen to reside. At present, it is envisaged that field co-ordinators will eventually have up to four field investigators under their respective wings, thereby making 30 teams of five individuals to a team.

It is with pleasure, therefore, that we announce the new system as being, so far at least, a resounding success. In-depth investigations of ufo sightings are being conducted to a far higher level than hitherto, the overall quality now being most gratifying. This derives from the fact that all the field co-ordinators and field investigators are seeking out and researching sightings (in their respective districts) on the basis of the comprehensive set of rules laid down by Data Research. But stringent checks of all manner of aspects relevant to even a single report takes time, so that those of you — and there have been many -- who have kindly submitted sighting reports to Data Research's headquarters at Wheatley will no doubt appreciate why it is that perhaps your particular communication has yet to receive a reply. It really does take time to verify details and amplify others not especially well documented in some reports. This is the price we pay for being more diligent and painstaking in our enquiries. All contributions, however, and whether acknowledged or not, are most gratefully received. Thus, if anyone has written to ask about the results of evaluations of reports they personally submitted (for example, the category assigned to the report), but has still to receive a reply, please bear with us. Similarly, those of you who require further information about Data Research, please allow upwards of a month for your enquiry to be processed and a reply issued.

Now to the selected reports.

APRIL 4th., 1977: various times during the evening.
BISHOP'S CLEEVE, (GLOUCESTERSHIRE).

Investigated by R.Schofield.

A witness (anonymity requested) has seen a brightly lit object, the size of a golf-ball at arm's length, several times the same evening.

APRIL 6th., 1977: 10.55 p.m. to 11.15 p.m.
Near BARNSELEY, (South Yorkshire).

Under investigation.

A male witness was driving home when he noticed a large cluster of lights, of which three were coloured red, one green and one white. The green one was flashing. He stopped his car and saw that the cluster was stationary. and totally silent. The lights then started to revolve slowly, but after a short while this movement stopped, and the cluster of lights (and presumably some object (invisible to the onlooker) to which they were attached) moved off towards the North.

APRIL 8th., 1977: 2.00 a.m.
GLASGOW, (Strathclyde).

Investigated by A.Kane.

A male witness glanced out of his window, when he saw an object the size of the full Moon. He woke his wife, who then also saw it, and observed the object through binoculars. Both witnesses watched it move soundlessly across (in front of) buildings opposite their vantage point. The object, then appeared to land in a clump of nearby trees, from which it shortly afterwards took off, rose into the air, and there joined a similar object that had come into view. Both objects disappeared into the West.

APRIL 16th., 1977: 7.44 p.m.
BUSHEY, WATFORD, (Hertfordshire).

Investigated by R.Fisher.

Yet another male witness was idly scanning the skies, when he noticed a moving object resembling a star. He fetched a telescope, through which he was able to see that the "star" was really two spherical lights, in colour flickering back and forth between orange and deep red. The object appeared to hover, then seemed to approach where the witness was standing, only to suddenly vanish. It has been established that this was not a satellite.

MAY 10th., 1977: 9.30 p.m.

HIGH BLANTYRE, Near HAMILTON, (Strathclyde). Investigated by A.Kane.

A man was watching television when he happened to glance out of a window. He immediately saw a stationary oblong object, which narrowed somewhat at the bottom, in the sky. It was the size of a cricket-ball at arm's length, and was coloured a bright red. Without warning, the object abruptly dematerialized.

MAY 16th., 1977: Approx. 11.00 p.m.

GLASGOW, (Strathclyde).

Investigated by A.Kane.

A family, consisting of husband, wife, and son, saw a disc-shaped object the size of a cricket-ball at arm's length and as bright as the Moon, very high in the sky. Silent, the object travelled eastwards for a while, then suddenly changed direction and went northwards.

MAY 17th., 1977: 8.40 p.m. to 8.46 p.m.

TORQUAY, PAIGNTON, and BRIXTON, (Devonshire).

Several witnesses watched four to five objects flying in a N.E. direction. Each object was very bright, and through a telescope, owned by one of the witnesses, seemed to be of a yellowish-orange tinge. Another witness said that the objects were arranged in a fifty-pence-piece formation, and were orange shading to blue in the centre. Investigated by the UFO Centre, Torquay.

MAY 17th., 1977: 9.30 p.m.

NEWHAVEN, (Lothian).

Investigator: A.Kane.

Several witnesses saw a large object resembling two saucers joined together at the rims. In colour, it was a pinky-red, was the size of a golf-ball at arm's length, and was totally silent. It hovered for 25 minutes, then began to descend, getting redder as it descended. It disappeared into, or beyond, nearby hills.

MAY 18th., 1977: 6.45 a.m.

HEADDINGTON, near OXFORD, (Oxfordshire).

Under investigation.

A female witness was looking out of her window when she saw a peculiar grey cloud in the sky that seemed to fold back on itself and reveal a ball of fire within it. This orb was very bright and had a reddish-pink edge around it. To the unaided eye, the object appeared to be the size of a football at arm's length. It was visible for only a few seconds before moving behind the clouds.

MAY 21st., 1977: 0.24 a.m.

LEICESTER, (Leicestershire).

Investigated by Brian Panter.

The witness to this sighting was in a taxi when he, and then the taxi-driver, saw an unusual object having the shape of a rugby-ball in the sky. It was brilliant white, the size of a football at arm's length, and wholly silent. At one stage the object appeared to look like five rugby-balls joined together in a circle. Initially hovering, the object then moved off and disappeared.

MAY 21st., 1977: Approx. 2.00 a.m.

STUDLEY, (Warwickshire).

Investigated by J.Lanyon.

A lone witness saw a silent elliptical object coloured orange, in the sky, travelling from N.E. to S.E., until it disappeared behind a factory roof-line. It was the size of a pea held at arm's length.

MAY 25th., 1977: Hour unnoted (but during the evening).
BRANSHOLME, (Humberside).

Several boys reported seeing a silvery cone-shaped object travelling silently at an estimated velocity of 600 miles per hour. Not investigated, as yet.

MAY 25th., 1977: 3.35 a.m.
At BURRINGHAM, (Humberside).

A male witness was looking out of his caravan when he noticed two oval-shaped objects, each stated to be about 20 feet in length and 3 feet in height, travelling across the sky from North to South. They were making a noise like a whirlwind, the intensity of which built up to a tremendous volume. Not yet investigated; all witnesses to this event are cordially invited to communicate with Data Research's headquarters as soon as possible.

MAY 26th., 1977: 8.45 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
DIDCOT, (Oxfordshire).

Under investigation.

Two witnesses were out rabbiting when they saw two objects in the sky. One object was rocket-shaped, the other tadpole-shaped. Both travelled on an East to South-east course. Initially the objects were silver coloured, but later one changed to a golden hue. The general size of a sixpence at arm's length, both objects were completely silent.

MAY 31st., 1977: 10.20 p.m.

At STAFFORD, (Staffordshire).

Investigated by J.Lanyon.

A married couple watched an object like a fluorescent white light in the sky. The size of a new penny at arm's length, the object was soundless as it moved away from the percipients, flashing twice before it disappeared.

Further reports for subsequent months will be published in the forthcoming issues of this journal.

"THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURES FOR 1977"

(An advance Notice).

Once again the Tudor Room at Caxton Hall will be the venue for CONTACT (UK)'s Annual General Meeting and Lectures. This year, the normal sequence of events has been rearranged somewhat, the programme being as follows.

Doors Open at 2.15 p.m.

3.00 p.m. Lecture by Raymond Drake on ufos in ancient times.

5.00 p.m. Lecture by Peter Underwood on ghosts and haunted places.

7.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

The date: Saturday, October 22nd.

Our lecturers hardly need any introduction, Raymond Drake being the author of several major books on ufos in ancient times, and Peter Underwood the author of the recently published "Gazetteer of British Ghosts". Both lectures, which will also be open to the general public, will have a distinct bearing upon several of the more perplexing aspects of the ufo enigma, and should be extremely interesting.

There will also be various exhibits, and books and magazines will be on sale.

"UFO RESPONDS TO TORCH LIGHT: A PRELIMINARY
ACCOUNT OF AN HITHERTO UNKNOWN CASE FROM BERLIN HEIGHTS, OHIO"

Communicated by

Miss Vera L. Perry

The time was 11.30 pm. one very clear, beautiful, starlit night in August, 1977. Steve Elmer, who bred thoroughbred Arabian horses on his ranch near Berlin Heights, Ohio, U.S.A., had just left his barn after taking care of his horses for the night, and was beginning to walk back towards his house when he heard a slight noise off to the side of where he had a small pile stones. He turned the flashlight he was carrying toward the sound, and saw two rabbits go scampering away. Then, just to see how far the beam of light from his flashlight would go, he began flashing it in various directions, and then up into the sky. The batteries in the flashlight were old ones, and consequently at times the light would flicker or start to dim. When this occurred, Steve Elmer more or less automatically shook the flashlight until the light it emitted became strong again (a common enough practice familiar to all those using torches and flashlights having aging batteries).

While Steve was vigorously shaking his flashlight on one of these occasions he suddenly noticed a bright white light heading northwards lake Erie. Assuming it was an aeroplane, he paid little notice to it and went on shaking the flashlight, up and down into the sky.

It was then that what he thought had been an aeroplane was slowly approaching him a straight line. Meanwhile, Steve's wife, Cindy, happened to look out of the window and saw her husband waving his flashlight about all over the place and into the sky. Curious, she stepped out of the house and went over to him; he was still near the barn. She asked him what he was doing. After quickly explaining, he added that he didn't think the bright still coming in their direction was an aeroplane after all. Turning into the direction in which he pointed, Cindy saw the strange light for the first time.

As the light got closer it greatly intensified in brightness, but neither Steve nor Cindy could determine any shape behind it, nor could they detect any sound. Suddenly, Cindy became very fearful and told Steve to turn off the flashlight, which he quickly did. They then both stood there watching the mystery light. As soon as the flashlight was turned off the light (ufo) stopped and hovered for a minute or so over the point it had reached. It then started back towards Lake Erie along the same path. It was quite a distance away when Steve's curiosity was aroused and he turned on the flashlight again and flashed it skywards. Immediately the ufo started to come back, approaching in the same slow manner as before and intensifying in brightness. At this, both Steve and Cindy began to experience panic, and Steve once more switched off the flashlight.

This time the ufo didn't stop but continued to approach, at which Steve and Cindy fled as fast as they could to hide in dense bushes nearby. From there, they watched the light, now as large as a full moon, hover over their paddock at an estimated altitude of 300 feet. It illuminated the entire area as if it had been daylight. After hovering there a few minutes, it slowly retraced its path, and finally disappeared towards Lake Erie. The entire sighting lasted about 15 minutes.

The next day, the Chronicle Telegram, a local newspaper, carried an article about the same or a similar object being sighted by two women.

"THE BIGNALL END (STAFFS.) UFO: A CORRECTED EVALUATION?"

(a notice from Data Research)

Many readers will recall the account in Flying Saucer Review, vol.23, no:1, 1977, of the sighting by a Mrs Nellie Richardson, on December 31st., 1976, at the above village, of an object hovering over the countryside nearby, and of two small entities. It is unnecessary to give full details here, since a briefer account of the same case, but including all essential elements in it, also appeared in Spring 1977 issue of this journal (Awareness, vol.6, no:1, pp.12-13, fig.5). The case has now been re-evaluated by the Institute for the Evaluation of Anomalous Phenomena, who, in a recently issued communique, of which Data Research received a copy, state that there is no evidence to continue regarding this Bignall End observation as related to the ufo phenomena. They identified the glowing object as the Moon seen under unusual meteorological conditions.

The same communique notes that the Bignall End case once more illustrates the poor standards of investigation of British UFO reports, and that to have regarded the case a "humanoid report" was a gross misrepresentation of the facts. The investigators, named in the Flying Saucer Review article, were Derek James, Christopher Bourne, and Tony Pace.

While taking no sides as to who, if anyone, is correct in their assessment of this affair, the censuring remarks of the Institute for the Evaluation of Anomalous Phenomena do show how necessary it is to maintain the highest possible standards of field investigating, and bears consideration in relation to the new Data Research methods described on pages 17 and 18 supra. It might also be relevant to note that a prominent member of the aforementioned Institute is Dr Ronald Maddison of Keele University.

All records respecting the Bignall End case should therefore be left "open", until such time as opportunities occur to finally "close" it.

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All communications should be either addressed direct to Dr.Haines or to the editor
 who will forward them to him. Dr.Haines's address is: 325 Langton Avenue, Los Altos,
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